

Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York, N. Y.

VOL. X. NO. 120

Sunday, May 23, 1943

NAZIS START EXECUTING JEWS IN REPRISAL FOR BLASTED DAMS; FIERCE BATTLE IN WARSAW

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- Mass-executions of Jews have taken place during the last three days in the ghettos of Cracow and Stanislawow, in Poland, "in reprisal for the destruction of the Ruhr dams," the Polish clandestine radio station SWIT reported today.

The broadcast also reported that a fierce house-to-house battle is still raging in the Warsaw ghetto and that, contrary to previous reports, the Nazis have not as yet succeeded in "liquidating" the ghetto and in crushing Jewish resistance. The Jews, SWIT reported, are fighting against special Nazi detachments of picked S.S. troops supported by artillery and armored cars.

"Yesterday," the broadcast from underground Poland continued, "the Nazi military dropped incendiary bombs over the ghetto and cut off the water supply in order to obstruct the work of extinguishing the fires." (A cable from the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Russia today stated that the Polish underground group, "Gwardia Narodowa," succeeded in rescuing many wounded Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and in bringing them to safety.)

1,000 German Killed by Jewish Fighters; Nazi Arsenal Destroyed

Prof. Stanislaw Kot, member of the Polish Cabinet, announced that information reaching the Polish Government today from two separate sources confirm that more than 1,000 Germans have been killed in the battle in the Warsaw ghetto. One report, Prof. Kot said, discloses that the Jews have succeeded in destroying several German arsenals.

In reporting the mass-executions of Jews in the Cracow and Stanislawow ghettos, the Polish radio stated: "All the Jews who remained in these ghettos are either being massacred on the spot or executed in gas chambers in the neighboring concentration camps. The Nazi authorities have announced that the ghettos are being mercilessly liquidated in revenge for the 'Jewish' suggestion that the Royal Air Force blast the German dams."

The Nazi radio stations today broadcast an article published in the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung in Berlin predicting "reprisals against Jews" in connection with the allegation that the bombing of the Ruhr dams this week was suggested by a Jewish refugee from Germany now in London. "The anti-Jewish reprisals," the article is quoted as stating, "will be carried out in a manner which the German authorities will consider proportionate enough to avenge the enormous damage caused by the destruction of the dams." The Nazi papers make it a point to add that "whether the family of the Jewish refugee will be found in Germany or not, there are still enough Jews to pay for the blasting of the dams."

BULGARIA HOLDS JEWS AS HOSTAGES FOR RELATIVES CHARGED WITH ANTI-AXIS SABOTAGE

ZURICH, May 21.(JTA)-- Thirty Jews in the Bulgarian city of Plovdiv have been taken as hostages by the authorities and will be held until their relatives, charged with anti-Axis sabotage, surrender to the police, it was reported here today. The report added that Leon Pappo, a Bulgarian Jew who was sentenced to death for assassinating a Nazi agent, has succeeded in escaping.

JAPAN SEIZES 100 JEWISH REFUGEES AS HOSTAGES IN SHANGHAI; MANY OTHERS ARRESTED

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- One hundred prominent Jewish refugees in Shanghai have been seized as hostages by the Japanese authorities there, while many others have been arrested as anti-Axis elements, a reliable report reaching here today discloses.

The Japanese authorities have closed down the offices of the Sephardic community in Shanghai and confiscated its property, the report also reveals. At the same time they mobilized all Jewish mechanics and skilled laborers for forced labor. Simultaneously, Jewish doctors and dentists were ordered to report for work in Japanese hospitals. The Jews are being paid twenty-five percent of what the Japanese workers receive, the report added.

NAZIS SUFFOCATE JEWS IN GROUPS OF 500 IN SPECIAL "STEAM CHAMBERS"

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- Thousands of Jews in Poland who are being deported by the Nazis to "unknown destinations" are actually being exterminated by suffocation in groups of 500 in special "steam chambers" erected in several concentration camps, it was learned here today when a 63-page report giving details of the mass-extirmination reached this country.

The report, which will be published as a "Black Paper," reveals that in the notorious Treblinka concentration camp "installations have been set up to enable the suffocation of 5,000 Jews daily." These installations are now being enlarged, the report adds. It describes how the victims, before being driven into the steam chambers, are forced to take off their clothing and stand naked for hours in the open. Similar procedure is followed in other "Jewish camps."

AXIS DISAPPOINTED IN MUFTI; OUST HIM FROM PROPAGANDA OFFICE

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- The defeat of the Axis in North Africa has resulted in the ousting of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem from the Arab propaganda office which was set up jointly by Germany and Italy under the Mufti's leadership to direct pro-Axis agitation in the Moslem world, the London press reported today.

The report says that the Axis powers have lost interest in the ex-Mufti now that his services have proven useless. The influence of the ex-Mufti has turned out to be insignificant not only among the Arabs in North Africa, but even with Moslems in Albania, Yugoslavia, and other territories which are still under Nazi occupation.

BENES DISCUSSES POST-WAR PROBLEMS WITH JEWISH LEADERS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, May 21.(JTA)-- Dr. Eduard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, today received Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, and discussed with them problems concerning the post-war situation of the Jews in Europe.

In Washington yesterday, Dr. Benes discussed the Palestine problem with Dr. Chaim Weizmann and Dr. Goldmann, and expressed to them his sympathy for the Zionist cause.

JEWS IN ENGLAND START DRIVE TO RAISE \$400,000 FOR BRODETSKY COLONY IN PALESTINE

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- A drive to raise \$400,000 to establish a colony in Palestine named after Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has been opened in Leeds. Dr. Brodetsky is a professor of mathematics at the University of Leeds.

CONFLICTING REACTION IN BRITISH PRESS TO PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON BERMUDA CONFERENCE

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- The British press today split sharply in its reaction to the debate in Commons on the recommendations of the Bermuda conference on refugees, with several papers severely critical of the government while others scored those who have questioned the government's sincerity in its treatment of the refugee problem.

The London News-Chronicle states that "one cannot escape the conclusion that the government has neither the imagination nor the will to get to grips with the problem. We believe it could, if it cared, do more. If not, what a hollow farce, what a pitiful exhibition of political cynicism was the solemn declaration subscribed to by the House five months ago." (The United Nations proclamation condemning Nazi atrocities against Jews in occupied territories.)

The Daily Telegraph, on the other hand, writes that "the enthusiasts who protest that machinery could be devised to deliver the enslaved millions cannot explain how these miracles should be performed." It charges that such people "are doing a grave disservice to the victims and to the Allied cause," adding that "the assertion that the problem could be solved immediately if England and America were in earnest is cruel propaganda, which deludes the suffering, as well as their friends, and defames the British and American people." It concludes that "where action was possible, it has been taken and so it will be in the future."

The Manchester Guardian, a long-time opponent of the government's refugee policy, declares that "while Hitler scours Europe for foreign labor, we set up barbed wire to keep it out." The Guardian ridicules the argument that some of the refugees may be "dangerous," pointing out that this argument has long been used to keep "the most pitiful refugees" out of Palestine, to where, it says, "29,000 refugees could be taken immediately without us bestirring ourselves to get them there."

ZYGELBOJM CREMATED; MESSAGE FROM JEWISH UNDERGROUND IN POLAND READ AT FUNERAL

LONDON, May 21.(JTA)-- Leaders of the Polish Government and representatives of British and Allied labor organizations were among the several hundred people who gathered today at the funeral services for Samuel Zygelbojm, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, who committed suicide on May 12 in protest against what he felt was the democratic world's apathy to the slaughter of Polish Jewry.

Lauding Zygelbojm as "one who sacrificed his life to protest against the appalling tragedy which has befallen his people," Stanislaw Kot, Polish Minister of Information, read a message received from the Jewish underground in Poland, asking that Zygelbojm's death be the signal for action to save the remnants of Polish Jewry before it is too late. Kot added that "Poland will be a mother to all citizens and will devote all its energy to complying with Zygelbojm's last wishes." Stanislaw Grabski, president of the Polish Council, paid tribute to his dead colleague as "a fighter for the Jewish proletariat and victim of the great tragedy of the Jewish people."

Camille Huysmans, Belgian Socialist leader, describing Zygelbojm as a true soldier of Socialism "who went from house to house to pray for help for his stricken people," pledged that "we will persevere and the Jewish people will not perish." Other speakers included W. Gilles of the British Labor Party, Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, the other Jewish deputy in the Polish Council and Adam Ciolkosz, Polish Socialist leader. Following the services, Zygelbojm's body was cremated.

CZECH JEWS FORCED BY NAZIS TO CROSS INTO RUSSIA ARE NOW FIGHTING AGAINST GERMANY

KUIBYSHEV, May 21.(JTA)-- Czech Jews who were forced by the Nazis at the outbreak of the present war to cross into Russia are now fighting side by side with the Red Army against the Germans, it is related in the Soviet press today.

In November of 1939, hundreds of Jews in Prague and other Czech cities were ordered to appear at a central railway station, where they were told they were going to be sent to Poland as agricultural laborers. About 1,500 Jews, men and women who were assembled at the Prague station were taken to nearby barracks, ordered to strip and were then herded into cattlecars. After several days of travelling, they reached the small Galician town of Nisko, not far from what was then the Soviet-German border.

At Nisko, the Jews were ordered out of the cars and told to run towards the Soviet border without looking back. To emphasize their commands, the Nazis opened fire on the deportees with machineguns, killing 200. The others ran for about four kilometers until they reached Russian territory, where they were given asylum. Many of these are now in the Czech divisions attached to the Red Army.

U.S. CAN ASK BRITAIN TO ABOLISH WHITE PAPER, McDONALD SAYS

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.(JTA)-- James G. McDonald, chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, speaking here, suggested that President Roosevelt urge the British Government to revoke limitations upon Jewish immigration into Palestine. McDonald, who was formerly League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from Germany, was the principal speaker at the fourth annual dinner-meeting of the Philadelphia Anti-Defamation Council in the Hotel Warwick.

The restrictions laid down in the so-called British White papers are "a violation of the spirit of the Mandate" based upon the Balfour Declaration establishing Palestine as a Jewish homeland, Mr. McDonald declared. "The reasons that Palestine is a natural haven in this crisis should be self-evident," he said. "The proposal to use the facilities of Palestine involves sharp revision of the British attitude promulgated in a series of White Papers. But British White Papers are not unchangeable; they are not sacrosanct.

"The war crisis itself makes drastic changes in British immigration policies in Palestine inevitable," Mr. McDonald continued. "The United States Government has the right and the duty to remind the British Government of our country's legal right to be concerned at any White Paper violation of the Mandate. President Roosevelt might well remind Prime Minister Churchill that the latter, when he was in the opposition, made a historic protest against the present White Paper."

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS PUBLISHES NEW MAGAZINE

NEW YORK, May 21.(JTA)-- A new illustrated monthly magazine, "Liberal Judaism," published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, made its appearance here today.

In an editorial note, the editors of the publication explain that they are issuing it in response "to the challenge of the new conditions likely to affect the destiny of America and Judaism." They promise that it will have a "forthright editorial policy" to create affirmative and rational perspectives and to foster a fuller appreciation of Jewish ideals."